

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, November 11, 1999

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Pease)

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 11, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. A. David Argo, Capitol Hill United Methodist Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

O God of wind-swept beaches, humid jungles, frozen hills, open fields, rushing oceans, dry deserts, turbulent skies, we come to You on this day fully aware that You know the places and the men and the women who often with certainty and sometimes with puzzlement have risked their futures and given their lives to make possible this process of democracy and the claim of freedom on this place. We thank You for their gift to us and ask that You would embolden us with their courage, trouble us with their sacrifices, and sustain us with their faithfulness so that the fulfillment of the tasks of this day will bespeak our deep gratitude and reflect our serious response to their legacy. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the time for resumption of proceedings on the de novo vote to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2336 is redesignated as Tuesday, November 16, 1999.

There was no objection.

### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

### HONORING VETERANS ON VETERANS' DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from California (Mr. CUNNINGHAM) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we were told that we would have votes on Friday, which is tomorrow; and for those of us that live in California, this is 21 hours back and forth to California and then to return the following day. So I decided to stay here and send messages to my veterans organizations and also to do a special order. Since that time, we found out that there will not be votes tomorrow, that they will not happen until Tuesday.

The men and the women behind me and before me, Mr. Speaker, have come today to pay homage to our veterans. I apologize for keeping them here on Veterans' Day, but I will be brief.

Today is very difficult for many of us, both Memorial Day and Veterans' Day, that, as a retired Navy person, I was shot down on my 300th mission over North Vietnam. I understand and appreciate what this day means to veterans and what it means for their families, for the active duty, the Reserve,

and the Guard, and for our prisoners of war, wherever they may be.

This is our last meeting for Veterans' Day of this century, for we enter the 21st century in this next year.

Like the human search for freedom this century, our peace has come at a very high price throughout this century. For those of us that have seen combat and its horrors resist as a last means engaging into another war.

Many have fought for different reasons in different conflicts, but I can think of no other reason other than freedom that should rise to the top of reasons for conflict.

I would like to think, as we enter this next century, that the world would be free, not only free for individuals, but free of conflict. But, unfortunately, it is still a very serious and dangerous place.

I feel, serving on the Defense Committee on Appropriations, that it is even more dangerous than it was 25 years or even 50 years ago.

I would like to go through a couple of stories I think in honor of some veterans. I heard this first story from Ronald Reagan as he accepted his inauguration on the Capitol steps a few years back.

I would ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, if they have ever heard of a private named Martin Trepto, a very famous individual. I would say that no one listening to this speech or, yourself, Mr. Speaker would know who he is. But let me tell my colleagues his story.

Martin Trepto was a baker that made bread and rolls in France. And during World War I, he closed his shop and he volunteered to go to war because he thought it was his duty.

As Martin Trepto entered the battlefield, he was assigned a position as a messenger. They did not have the fancy electronics that they have today, and many of those messages were carried in a courier's pouch. When Martin Trepto got to the battlefield, the three messengers ahead of him had been killed trying to deliver a message.

Martin Trepto volunteered to take that message forward to the front lines. And like the other three messengers, Martin Trepto was killed.

They found his diary, and in his diary it read: "This has been a very difficult war. I do not know if I will survive it. But I must treat every action of mine as if that individual action would shorten this war and cause freedom for my friends."

How profound is that. How many of us, Mr. Speaker, honor those veterans